

X. *Description of Two Insects belonging to Pseudomela, a New Genus of Chrysomelidæ.* By JOSEPH S. BALY, Esq.

[Read 3rd March, 1856.]

THE following genus bears, in its vertical and deeply inserted head, a striking resemblance to *Eumolpus*, near which it was placed in my cabinet, until a closer examination showed me that its true relations were with the *Chrysomelidæ* proper; the perpendicular or horizontal positions of the head, so well marked in the typical genera *Eumolpus* and *Chrysomela*, are of much less value in the aberrant forms of the two families, and not of themselves sufficient to separate them, without having recourse to other characters. Lacordaire, in the introductory chapter to his Monograph on the *Phytophages*, points out the characters to be derived from the tarsi; in the separation of the present families they are most important; the *Eumolpidæ* have the third joint invariably deeply cleft or bilobed, and the fourth, or claw, more or less toothed. The *Chrysomelidæ*, on the other hand, have their penultimate joint entire, *Gastrophysa* and *Phratora*, genera allied to the *Halticidæ*, alone excepted; their claw again is generally simple, although the exceptions to this latter rule are numerous. The two species described in the present paper are both from Africa; one received from Old Calabar by A. Murray, Esq., of Edinburgh, after whom I have named it, the other from Port Natal, sent by Mr. Plant.

Family CHRYSOMELIDÆ.

Genus PSEUDOMELA.

Antennæ robust, flattened, subclavate, rather longer than the thorax, their first joint incrassate, clavate, the second short, the third and fourth equal, ovate, slightly thickened towards the apex, the rest dilated, compressed, covered with short hairs. *Palpi* clavate, truncate, the third joint rather broader than the fourth. *Body* ovate, convex; head perpendicular, deeply inserted in the thorax, the latter transverse; *legs* and *tarsi* simple, the latter with their penultimate joint entire.

Sp. 1. *Pseudomela Murrayi*.

Oblong-ovate, convex, finely punctured, fulvous, antennæ (the four basal joints excepted) and legs black.

Long. 5 lin.

Head shining, sparingly punctured; thorax half as broad again as long, convex, its apex scarcely concave, the base slightly convex, side margins rounded, their anterior and posterior angles acute, surface punctured, shining, punctures more scattered on the disc; scutellum smooth; elytra ovate, convex, three times the length of the thorax, rather broader than the latter at the base, sides nearly parallel in front, their apex rounded, surface distinctly punctured; on each elytron are several nearly obsolete longitudinal lines, pale fulvous; beneath fulvous, closely punctured; legs black, thighs sometimes pitchy.

Old Calabar.

Sp. 2. *Pseudomela Natalensis*.

Ovate, very convex, strongly punctured, pale pitchy, body beneath, antennæ and legs black.

Long. $3-3\frac{2}{3}$ lines.

Deeply punctured, antennæ entirely black; thorax transverse, nearly twice as broad as long, convex above, its apex concave, posterior angles obtuse, side margins rounded, surface coarsely punctured, indistinctly excavated on the sides; scutellum finely punctured; elytra ovate, convex, deeply punctured, sides more rounded than in the former species; beneath black, closely punctured, a few stains on the apical, and the extreme margin of all the abdominal segments, pitchy.

Port Natal.

Smaller than the last, more globose, the puncturing coarser.